# (7) Additional principles

Such other principles as the Joint Board and the Commission determine are necessary and appropriate for the protection of the public interest, convenience, and necessity and are consistent with this chapter.

# 47 USC §254(h()(1)(A) provides:

A telecommunications carrier shall, upon receiving a bona fide request, provide telecommunications services which are necessary for the provision of health care services in a State ... to any public or nonprofit health care provider that serves persons who reside in rural areas in that State at rates that are <u>reasonably comparable</u> to rates charged for similar services in urban areas in that State (emphasis added).

# III. The Maximum Allowable Distance limitation should not be applied as it results in a rate that is not reasonably comparable.

The purpose of the universal service program is to afford rural heath care providers the opportunity to access telecommunications and information services that are "reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas." 47 USC §254(b)(3).

Given PSMCC's unique circumstances — its remote location, the mountainous terrain and adverse climatic conditions that impact the functionality of terrestrial wirelines that service Seward, and the fact that the <u>only</u> alternative form of wireline service that could provide the needed bandwidth, diversity and redundancy is a submarine fiber optic cable that, of necessity, runs a course of 475 miles - applying the maximum allowable distance limitation under 47 CFR §54.613 is inconsistent with the purpose and legislative intent of the Universal Service mechanism. Without a recalculation based on PSMCC's original submission, it will be forced to discontinue the AT&T service, and again subject the quality of health care provided in Seward to the inconsistent level of services afforded by strictly terrestrial based communication lines.

September 23, 2011
Page 8 of 8

# REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Funding should be calculated based on a comprehensive rate comparison method which would result in PSMCC paying a rate that an urban health care provider would pay for similar services. That calculation for the period ending June 30, 2010, is attached as Ex. 1.

Appellant provider PSMCC requests a hearing on this request for review/appeal and reserves the right to submit supplemental material in support of its appeal as appropriate. To the extent that it raises novel questions of fact, law or policy, a hearing is requested before the full Commission.

DATED this 23 day of September, 2011, at Anchorage, Alaska.

**GRUENSTEIN & HICKEY** 

Attorneys for Providence Health & Services - Alaska

Daniel W. Hickey, ABA #7206026

cc: Susan Humphrey-Barnett
Area Operations Administrator
Providence Health & Services – Alaska

Certificate of Service

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by Federal Express this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011, on:

Rural Health Care Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036 (202-776-0200)

Terri K. Humphrey

Page 8 of 8 :

# Ex. 14

PO Box 365 Seward, AK 99664 t: (907) 224 5205 f: (907) 224 8826 www.providence.org/alaska

October 28, 2011



Letter of Appeal Rural Health Care Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036

Request for Reconsideration/Appeal for HCP 10382 Packets 102861 and 102862 - Funding Year 2010

We are appealing the calculated funding on these two packets. As in the prior year, we believe the funding calculations for both of these packets are incorrect. USAC has erroneously reduced the applicable rural rate incorrectly as the circuits are not mileage based. Our Funding Request on Form 466 is specific in that we filed based on Block 6: Comprehensive Rate Request rather than Block 5: Mileage-Based Charge Request.

The USAC reviewer incorrectly "discounted" our circuit cost from \$9005.20 to \$2133.40 based on a reduction in covered miles. This reduction is incorrect and needs to be revised. I believe we should receive additional funding of \$103,301.76 per circuit as per my calculations attached.

Please find attached the calculations, bill from AT&T and supplementary information which has been provided in the previous year but is enclosed here for your convenience. Please let us know if you need any further documentation.

We expect a response within 90 days as stated within your guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maryon Freguesta

Contact Information:

Maryann Freepartner, Finance Manager maryann.freepartner@providence.org

907-224-2980 Alaska Time Zone

Fax 907-224-5250

PO Box 365 Seward AK 99664

EXHIBIT 14
Page / of 16

PROVIDENCE SEWARD MEDICAL AND CARE CENTER HCP 10382 USAC APPEAL YEAR 2010 PACKETS 108610 AND 102862

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

#### DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Location: Providence Seward Medical and Care Center (PSMCC) is a rural health care provider in Seward, Alaska. Seward has a population of approximately 3,000 and is located in the Southcentral Region of Alaska, at the head of Resurrection Bay on the eastern shore of the Kenai Peninsula, a rugged wilderness area with a significant mountain range running the length of the peninsula close to the eastern shore. Access to Seward by vehicle is limited to one road stretching 126 miles to Anchorage, Alaska. Other access is by small airplane, helicopter, boat and seasonal train. The weather in Seward, Alaska consists of many days of rain, snow, ice and high winds which make access difficult. Road construction, particularly bridge construction, and avalanches have closed the road periodically. Seward has also experienced many earthquakes and some seasonal flooding.

PSMCC consists of a six-bed Critical Access Hospital including Provider-based clinic and 24-7 Emergency Room and also a 40-bed long-term care facility. Services include emergency services, limited inpatient hospital care, laboratory, radiology, rehabilitation therapy, family care clinic and long-term care.

PSMCC is owned by the City of Seward and managed by Providence Health & Services. Through the alliance with Providence, PSMCC works closely with Providence Alaska Medical Center, the largest hospital in Alaska. Through this alliance PSMC can provide expanded services through the use of telemedicine, electronic medical records and access to specialists across the full spectrum of care. For the vast majority of heart attack, stroke, and traumatic injury patients on the eastern side of the Kenai Peninsula, PSMCC is the only place where they are stabilized and given initial treatment before being transferred to a tertiary care center, which is often Providence Alaska Medical Center. Electronic medical records facilitate the emergency room treatment and transfer of these patients and contribute to high quality emergency and trauma care.

For many years, PSMCC relied on two T-1 land circuits supplied by GCI that traveled from Seward to Anchorage through the Chugach Mountain Range and which followed the road 126 miles rather than the distance through space of 85 miles. These circuits traverse several mountain passes and are subject to adverse climatic conditions as noted above. These circuits have suffered from outages, particularly during winter months, which have resulted in negative impacts on patient care and safety at PSMCC. The climatic conditions have also resulted in extended stays at PSMCC due to the inability of helicopter access to transport critical patients. These communications literally make the difference between life and death to these patients.

The need for uninterrupted connectivity led in 2009 to the exploration of alternatives to the two land-based T-1 lines. At that point the only feasible addition that would provide diversity in both the route of the connection and the carrier providing the service was a submarine fiber circuit which existed between Seward and Anchorage, the route of which ran through Kodiak, Alaska. AT&T submitted a proposal for two additional T-1 lines at a custom rate based on private line rates in effect. This was not a mileage based rate as assumed by USAC based on the number of miles noted in the contract which was not used in calculation of the rate.

#### DISCUSSION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

We believe that we followed all USAC guidelines in putting out a request for bids through Form 465, reviewing the one proposal that satisfied our needs for redundancy and diversity of both carrier and route, and selected the contract proposed by AT&T. Our Request for Support on Form 466 was not based on mileage as the calculation of charges by AT&T was not based on mileage. We filed a comprehensive rate request and not a mileage based rate request. We believe that our funding should be calculated based on a comprehensive rate comparison method.

EXHIBIT 14 Page 2 of 16

# PROVIDENCE SEWARD MEDICAL AND CARE CENTER HCP 10382 USAC APPEAL YEAR 2010 PACKETS 102861 AND 102862

FUNDING REQUESTED: Circuit cost per month	Packet 102861 9,005.20		Packet 102862 9,005.20		Total
Federal reg fees	1,747.90	*	1,747.90	*	
Taxes	386.10	*	386.10	*	
Total Rural Rate	11,139.20		11,139.20		
Urban rate	198.30		198.30		
Monthly funding request	10,940.90		10,940.90		
Total months 12	131,290.80		131,290.80		
Non-recurring request				,	
	131,290.80		131,290.80		262,581.60
Funding commitment received: Circuit cost per month "Discount" applied in error	9,005.20 (6,871.80) 2,133.40		9,005.20 (6,871.80) 2,133.40		
Taxes Discounted rural rate	407.17		407.17		
Urban rate including tax	208.15		208.15		
Monthly support	2,332.42		2,332.42		
Total months 12	27,989.04		27,989.04		
Non-recurring request					
Funding per commitment	27,989.04		27,989.04		55,978.08
Additional funding requested	103,301.76		103,301.76		206,603.52

<sup>\*</sup>Based on representative monthly bill 2/1/11 attached. See calculation page 5 of bill.

# AT&T MONTHLY BILL DATED 2/1/11



Interstate Dedicated Private Line Service

ALASCOM, INC. D/B/A AT&T ALASCOM 210 EAST BLUFF DRIVE ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 89501-1100

PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

PO BOX 365 SEWARD AK

99664

Billing Number:

MM SS3327 01 001

8002-765-6315 **Account Number:** Invoice Number:

8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date:

02-01-11

For billing inquirles: 1-800-764-8592 To place an order: 1-907-264-7142

Regulatory Commission of Alaska - 1-800-390-2782

For repair service: 1-800-252-7521

**New Charges** 

Monthly Charges 02-01 through 02-28: Prorated Charges/Credits: One-Time Charges/Credits:

**Total Charges:** 

18,010.40 0.00

3,985.68

\$ 21,996.08

Federal Excise Tax:

State/Local Taxes and Surcharges:

0.00 282.32

Total Taxes and Surcharges on Charges:

282.32

Total Charges, Taxes, and Surcharges:

\$ 22,278.40

**Balance Brought Forward** 

Balance as of Last Monthly Invoice:

Payments Received:

Other Charges and Adjustments:

\$283,338.49 396.60 CR

**Balance Brought Forward:** 

0.00

\$282,941,89

**Remittance Amount** 

**Total Payable Upon Receipt:** 

\$305,220.29

To ensure proper credit, please detach this portion and return with remittance.

Remittance Document Interstate Dedicated Private Line Service

> PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL PO BOX 365

SEWARD AK 99664

Address Correction:

Please remit payments to:

լենլ[[իր]ընինիալ[[րևեներինինը]իրիրիալիալիակինի[իրըին ALASCOM, INC. d/b/a AT&T ALASKA P.O. BOX 5019

CAROL STREAM, IL 60197-5019



Account Number: Invoice Number: Inquiry Center: Telephone Number: 8002-765-6315 8946235193 USK00211 1-800-764-8592

Invoice Date:

02-01-11

**Amount Due:** 

\$305,220.29

Amount Enclosed:



PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number: Account Number: MM SS3327 01 001 8002-765-6315

invoice Number:

8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date:

02-01-11

### JUST FOR YOUR BUSINESS

AT&T will charge a \$25 fee for any check returned for insufficient funds, applied to your next invoice. AT&T values your business and thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

From time to time, AT&T may change the names of services, Service Capabilities, or Service Components, or other terminology. The old terminology may remain in use for some time after such changes (such as in contract documents and billing records). For example, your customer bill and other customer documents may refer to Private Line Service (PLS) as Accument, and may refer to DSO service as Accument Spectrum of Digital Services (ASDS) or Single Channel Service. Should you have any questions about the service name appearing on your bill, please refer to the 'Table of Changed Terminology' located in the AT&T Service Guides and applicable state tariffs.

#### REGULATORY NEWS

Your telecommunications services are provided by one or more of the following AT&T Corp. subsidiaries based on the type of service provided, and the location at which it is provided: AT&T Communications of (State), and or TCG (State). To view service publications go to att.com/servicepublications and click on the Service Guide and or Tariff.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Bill Period is the monthly period that the customer's bill processing started and ended. The Usage is usually billed within the current Bill Period and Monthly Recurring Charges (MRCs) are billed one month in advance.

#### For example:

Invoice date April 1, Usage/Bill Period March 1 through March 31, MRCs April 1 through April 30 Invoice date April 11, Usage/Bill Period March 11 through April 10, MRCs April 11 through May 10 Invoice date April 19, Usage/Bill Period March 19 through April 18, MRCs April 19 through May 18.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### Attention Valued AT&T Customers

If your invoice includes any back-billed charges, you have the right to pay these charges in full with your regular bill, or to call AT&T to make reasonable payment arrangements. You may choose to pay the back-billed amount in monthly installments equal to the number of back-billed months. Please take note that you must pay the full amount of your phone bill each month, including installments to repay back billed - charges, in order to avoid possible disconnection and other charges and penalties. If you are interested in using this payment method for any back-billed amount, please call AT&T on the toll-free number located on your bill.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

If your business makes outbound telephone solicitations, you must comply with federal do-no-call laws and regulations (47 C.F.R.64.1200, and 16 C.F.R.310) and any applicable state laws.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

EXHIBIT 14
Page 6 of 16



PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number: Account Number: MM SS3327 01 001

Invoice Number:

8002-765-6315 8946235193 ORIGINAL

Involce Date:

02-01-11

#### REGULATORY NEWS

(continued)

Federal regulation requires AT&T to inform our valued customers that basic local services will not be disconnected for the non-payment of your non-regulated service charges. To avoid collection activity, please remember to pay all charges by the due date.

In addition, you may experience disconnection of your basic local service if payment is not received for the Long Distance portion of your bill except in the states: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

AT&T Calling Card is a US-based telecommunications service provided by AT&T Corp. Worldwide access is provided on a bilateral basis in cooperation with AT&T's correspondent carriers in non-US jurisdictions, and in accordance with the Regulations of the International Telecommunications Union, as applicable.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

DO NOT CALL

If your business makes outbound telephone solicitations, you must comply with federal do-not-call laws and regulations (47 C.F.R. 64.1200 and 16 C.F.R. 310) and any applicable state laws.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*Important News About Your Account\*\*\*\*

You are requested to provide in writing to AT&T, within six months of the date of this bill, any dispute with respect to the charges on this bill, unless a different notification period applies under your contract, State Tariff and/or Service Guide.

You can reach AT&T either by using the toll free number on your bill, or in writing at the address listed at the top of the first page of your invoice.

http://serviceguide.att.com/servicelibrary/business/ext/state\_tariff\_buss.cfm

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

If you receive service pursuant to a signed contract or other term agreement with AT&T and it is currently in effect, its terms will govern the provision of your AT&T service.

AT&T's standard contract for detariffed services not covered by a signed contract or term agreement, including expired contracts or term plans that are not renewed, can be found at: att.com/agreement. Important limits of liability apply, including: AT&T is not liable for indirect or consequential damages (such as your lost profits or other economic loss), and direct damages during any 12 months cannot exceed one month of your payments for affected service(s).

Additional terms, conditions, charges and price change information for all detariffed business services can be viewed at http://www.att.com/serviceguide/business. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact your AT&T Sales Representative or Customer Care Center for information.

**End of Messages** 

EXH!BIT\_14 Page\_7\_of\_16\_





#### PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number:

MM SS3327 01 001

Account Number: 8002-765-6316 Invoice Number: 8946235193 8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date:

Payment Date	Payment Description	Payment Method	Amount
Payment 12-30-10	PAYMENT RECEIVED	0000761247	\$396.60 <sup>0</sup>
		Total Payments Applied:	\$396.60





## PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number:

MM SS3327 01 001

Account Number: 8002-765-6315

Invoice Number:

8946235193 ORIGINAL

invoice Date:

\$5.90 \$164 \$14.42 \$399 \$18.36 \$508 \$84.60 \$3,036 \$79.52 \$9,084. \$79.52 \$9,084.
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# Interstate Dedicated Private Line Service

Page Number:

PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number:

MM SS3327 01 001

Account Number: Invoice Number:

8002-765-6315 8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date:

Description	Monthly Charges	Prorated Charges/Credits	One-Time Charges/Credits	Taxes and Surcharges
<u>Circuit Charges</u> Monthly, Prorated, and One-Time Charges/Credits for 02-01-11 thr	ru 02-28-11			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FEE-DCS FEDERAL REGULATORY FEE-DCS PROPERTY TAX ALLOTMENT-DCS UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY-DCS			\$158,48 \$385,44 \$489,88 \$2,951,88	\$5.90 \$14.42 \$18.38 \$84.60
Total Circuit Charges:	\$0,00	\$0.00	\$3,985,68	\$123.2
Total This Account:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,985.68	\$123.26
Total Activity Charges, Taxes and Surcharges:		\$4,1	08.96	





## PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Account Number: MM SS3327 01 001
Account Number: 8002-765-6315
Invoice Number: 8946235192

8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date:

	LATORY/OTHER CHARGES IISTRATIVE EXPENSE FEE	Circuit Number: ADMINISTRATION	VE EXPENSE FEE-DCS	
1	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FEE-DCS Adjustment			\$ 158,48
		Total This Activity:	\$0.00	\$158.41

#### **PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL**

Billing Number:

MM 553327 01 001

Account Number: 8002-765-6315 Invoice Number: 8946235193

8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date:

The state of the s	LATORY/OTHER CHARGES AL REGULATORY FEE	Circuit Number: FEDERAL REGU	JLATORY FEE-DCS	
2	FEDERAL REGULATORY FEE-DCS Adjustment			\$385.44
	Jan	Total This Activity:	\$0.00	\$385.44



\$489.88

**PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL** 

Billing Number: MM SS3327 01 001 Account Number: 8002-765-6315

\$0.00

8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Number: Invoice Date:

Item No.	Description of C	hange Monthly Charges		One-Time Charges
	LATORY/OTHER CHARGES ERTY TAX ALLOTMENT	Circuit Number: PROPERTY TAX	ALLOTMENT-DCS	
	T			
3	PROPERTY TAX ALLOTMENT-DCS Adjustment			\$489.

Total This Circuit:



PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number:

MM SS3327 01 001

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$2,951.88

\$3,985.68

\$3,985,68

Account Number: 8002-765-6315

8946235193 ORIGINAL Invoice Number:

Invoice Date:

02-01-11

item No.	Description of Chan	je.	Charges Charges	One-Time Charges
Section 1	LATORY/OTHER CHARGES	Circuit Number: UNIVER	SAL CONNECTIVITY-DCS	
4	UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY CHARGE-DCS Adjustment			\$2,951.88
		Total This Activity:	\$0.00	\$2,951.88

**Total This Circuit:** 

Total All Circuits:

Total This Account:

#### PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number:

MM SS3327 01 001

Account Number:

8002-766-6315

Invoice Number:

8946235193 ORIGINAL 02-01-11

voice	Date:	02

		myoree D	ate. 02-01-		
Description	Federal Excise Taxes	State Taxes	County Taxes	Local Taxes	Other Taxes and Surcharge
Circuit Level Taxes					
DHEC 744587 ALS ALASKA			\$34.08	\$45.44	
DHEC 745718 ALS ALASKA			\$34.08	\$45.44	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FEE-DCS ALASKA			\$2.52	\$3.38	
FEDERAL REGULATORY FEE-DCS ALASKA			\$6.18	\$8.24	1
PROPERTY TAX ALLOTMENT-DCS ALASKA		ĺ	\$7.86	\$10.50	
UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY-DCS ALASKA			\$36.24	\$48.36	
Subtotal:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.96	\$161,36	\$0.00
Total This Account:	\$0.00		\$2	82.32	

Page Number: 12 La:

PROVIDENCE SEWARD HOSPITAL

Billing Number:

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MM SS3327 01 001 8002-765-6315

Account Number: Invoice Number:

8946235193 ORIGINAL

Invoice Date: 02

02-01-11

Billing Details - Information Only

PROMOTIONAL DISCOUNT SAVINGS REPORT FOR HONTH BEGINNING FEBRUARY 01, 2011

> CUSTOMER BILLING MUMBER MM SS3327 01 001

CIRCUIT IDENTIFI	PROH ER NUMB			HONTHLY CHARGE	MONTHLY CHARGE DISCOUNT AHOUNT	MONTHLY CHARGE DISCOUNT PERCENT	SERVICE CHARGE	SERVICE CHARGE DISCOUNT AMOUNT	SERVICE CHARGE DISCOUNT PERCENT
DHEC744587 A	LS 2000A LS 2000A LS 2000A	KO1 0001/ A KO1 0002/ A	D41AC AHOAD	\$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00	\$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00	100.00% 100.00% 100.00% 100.00%			
					s	AVINGS THIS	CIRCUIT	\$80.00	
DHEC745718 A	S 2000A S 2000A S 2000A	KO1 0001/ A KO1 0002/ A	041AC AHOAD	\$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00	\$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00	100.002 100.002 100.002 100.002			
					s	AVINGS THIS	CIRCUIT	\$80.00	-
					τ	OTAL SAVING	ss	\$160.00	



Ex. 15

# PROVIDENCE SEWARD MEDICAL AND CARE CENTER HCP 10382 USAC APPEAL YEAR 2010 PACKETS 102861 AND 102862

FUNDING REQUESTED: Circuit cost per month	Packet 102861 9,005.20		Packet 102862 9,005.20	Total
Federal reg fees	1,747.90	*	1,747.90 *	
Taxes	386.10	*	386.10 *	
Total Rural Rate	11,139.20		11,139.20	
Urban rate	198.30		198.30	
Monthly funding request	10,940.90		10,940.90	
Total months 12	131,290.80		131,290.80	
Non-recurring request				
	131,290.80		131,290.80	262,581.60
Funding commitment received: Circuit cost per month "Discount" applied in error Taxes	9,005.20 (6,871.80) 2,133.40 407.17		9,005.20 (6,871.80) 2,133.40 407.17	
Discounted rural rate	2,540.57		2,540.57	
Urban rate including tax	208.15		208.15	
Monthly support	2,332.42		2,332.42	
Total months 12	27,989.04		27,989.04	
Non-recurring request				
Funding per commitment	27,989.04		27,989.04	55,978.08
Additional funding requested	103,301.76		103,301.76	206,603.52

<sup>\*</sup>Based on representative monthly bill 2/1/11 attached. See calculation page 5 of bill.

